

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A stabilizer for implanting in the disk space between adjacent vertebrae of a patient to stabilize the vertebrae comprising:

an elongate implant having a substantially rectangular cross-sectional shape with a minimal height defined by first and second sides and a maximal width defined by third and fourth sides, the third and fourth sides being arched from one end of the implant to the other;

a lock having a bearing surface formed thereon;

means for mounting said lock to one end of the implant to prevent rotation of the implant in the disk space when the implant is inserted into the disk space and rotated so that the third and fourth sides of the implant and the bearing surface of said lock contact the adjacent vertebrae;

a key formed on the lock; and

a keyway formed on said implant for receiving said key therein, said keyway having a mouth wider than the width of said key for facilitating insertion of said key therein.

2. The stabilizer of claim 1 wherein said keyway is provided with a funnel-shaped portion behind the mouth, the width of the funnel-shaped portion decreasing to the width of said keyway.

3. The stabilizer of claim 1 wherein both the first and second sides of the implant are provided with said keyways.

4. The stabilizer of claim 3 wherein said keyways are provided with funnel-shaped portions behind their respective mouths, the width of the funnel-shaped portions decreasing to the width of said keyways.

5. The stabilizer of claim 4 additionally comprising an applicator comprised of an elongate handle and a head, said head having a pair of prongs formed thereon shaped to fit into and engage the funnel-shaped portions of said keyways.

6. The stabilizer of claim 5 wherein the prongs of the head of said applicator are flush with the surfaces of the first and second sides of the implant when the prongs are engaged to the funnel-shaped portions of said keyways.

7. The stabilizer of claim 1 additionally comprising a bolt for mounting said lock to the implant.

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a4 }

8. The stabilizer of claim 7 additionally comprising a lock nut for preventing the loosening of said lock nut.

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a5 }

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